RE: 2014-2016 Draft History-Social Science Framework for Grade Ten, Chapter 15: Grade Ten — World History, Culture, and Geography: The Modern World Chapter of the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools. Page 469. Lines 913 ~ 919 about "Comfort Women"

The history of comfort women is highly disputed between the nations of S. Korea and Japan, and hyperboles abound. As the education of children is important, it is essential that all claims are carefully confirmed before teaching them as uncontested facts. Please consider the following points:

- (1) Lines 917-919: "most argue that hundreds of thousands of women were forced into these situations during Japanese occupation." EVIDENCE BASED FINDINGS: All historians and scholars agree that the exact number of comfort women is uncertain [Refs. 1,2]. However, estimates by scholars who conduct research on this topic range typically in the tens of thousands [Refs. 1,3]. Although "most" activists and politically-based groups claim the number is "hundreds of thousands," reputable scholars generally do not state such a high number.
- (2) Lines 913-915. "'Comfort Women,' a euphemism for sexual slaves, were taken by the Japanese Army in occupied territories before and during the war." FINDINGS: Scholars and researchers have confirmed the most Korean comfort women were recruited by civilians (not the Japanese Army), served for defined periods of time, were often paid (or their families paid), and were allowed to return home. [Refs 1-4] As such, many scholars explicitly do not use the expression "sexual slavery", as it would be misleading. The expression "sexual slaves" was popularized by, inter alia, lawyers filing lawsuits, activists, politicians, and journalists conveying what others said, and thus now permeates the Internet and media.
- (3) Lines 915-917. "Comfort Women' can be taught as an example of institutionalized sexual slavery, and one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the twentieth century." EVIDENCE BASED FINDINGS: As the number of comfort women is uncertain (see above), it would be inappropriate to claim outright that it is "one of the largest cases of human trafficking" of the last century. Again, many neutral scholars explicitly avoid the expression "sexual slavery", as it would be misleading. A small fraction of comfort women in territories Japan occupied during the war (e.g., Indonesia) were forcibly acquired by local military personnel, but this was done by soldiers acting independently [Ref. 1]. The women were freed after about two months when a higher ranking officer discovered the situation, and the personnel responsible were later punished.

Few things are more important than children's education, and it is crucial that history be taught in a fair, neutral, and fact-based way. The tragic results of history being taught in a biased way can be seen in the Middle East, where past misdeeds are often exaggerated and only one side's version of events is presented. We urge that the proposed additions (lines 913-919) be shelved until their veracity is confirmed/disproved in a neutral and unblased way, e.g., by consulting scholars who have conducted in-person research in this field, such as Prof. C. Sarah Soh (San Francisco State University), and Prof. Yuha Park (Sejong University, S. Korea), and Prof. George Akita (University of Hawaii).

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We are strongly against teaching false history at schools in California.

The California Department of Education is planning to include the topic of "Comfort Women" in *History-Social Science* classes for 10th Graders. Here are the contents: "Comfort Women," a euphemism for sexual slaves, were taken by the Japanese Army in occupied territories before and during the war. "Comfort Women" can be taught as an example of institutionalized sexual slavery, and one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the twentieth century; estimates on the total number of comfort women vary, but most argue that hundreds of thousands of women were forced into these situations during Japanese occupation.

These are distorted images of comfort women that are being spread by South Korea and People's Republic of China for the purpose of Japan bashing. The fact is that "Comfort Women" is a euphemism for camp following prostitute earning high salaries, Brothels were run by private parties, but the Japanese Imperial Army got involved in the management to protect the health and the dignity of Comfort Women from the exploitation and unfair working condition by the brothel owners. These facts were described in many official Allied documents that were prepared by Office of War Information, South East Asia Translation and Interrogation Center, Allied Translator and Interpreter Section during World War II.

There were Comfort Women who had been connected with the "oldest profession on earth" before becoming comfort women, but many Comfort Women were poor victims who were sold to private brokers by their parents for paying off their familles' debt and had to work against their will. In 1994, Japanese government acknowledged Comfort Women's sufferings brought by the Comfort Women system and sent a letter of apology signed by the Prime Minister with up to total \$50,000 for the medical welfare support and compensation to each of the former Comfort Women from Korea, Taiwan, Philippine, Indonesia and Netherlands, but not to Japanese Comfort Women who made up half of total Comfort Women in World War II. The project solved all Comfort Women issues with other nations except for 175 former Korean Comfort Women who rejected to receive the letter and money, which is the reason why Comfort Women issues have continued until now.

Japan was the first nation that acknowledged mistreatment of women during WWII, but there have been many female war victims in the world. There were Japanese Comfort Women for GIs in state-run brothels called Recreation Amusement Association that was established by the request from the US to prevent numerous number of rapes of Japanese women by GIs that happened during early occupation of Japen by the US. The US government has never mentioned about it, and Japan has never demanded application for It.

Should the distorted history of Comfort Women be taught at schools, it will definitely cause prejudice and discrimination against Japanese and Japanese-Americans end heve negative impact on Japan-US relation. It may even cause hatred amongst those who wish to live in a peaceful community. Indeed, harassing and bullying Japanese students using this issue is happening. We are strongly against teaching distorted history of Comfort Women at schools and support the petition entitled "Write "Comfort Women were well paid prostitutes, sold their service to US Army as well" at Change.org

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Printed Name	Address	Signature Signature Signed at Chango.org/
Michelle Shintani	5668 Sunmist Dr. RPV, CA 90275	Msz
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